

General Assembly

Amendment

February Session, 2022

LCO No. 3829



Offered by:

SEN. SAMPSON, 16th Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. **5262**

File No. 5

Cal. No. 64

"AN ACT REVISING CERTAIN ABSENTEE VOTING ELIGIBILITY STATUTES."

- After the last section, add the following and renumber sections and internal references accordingly:
- "Sec. 501. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 9-19k of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):
- 6 (a) The Secretary of the State shall establish and maintain a system for 7 online voter registration. Such system shall also permit a registered 8 elector to apply for changes to such elector's registration. An applicant 9 may register to vote through this system, provided the applicant's (1) 10 registration information is verifiable in the manner described in 11 subsection (b) of this section, and (2) signature is in a database described 12 in said subsection (b) and such signature may be imported into such 13 system for online voter registration.
- 14 (b) A state agency, upon the request of the Secretary of the State, shall

provide any information to the Secretary that the Secretary deems necessary to maintain the system for online voter registration. The Secretary may cross reference the information input into the system by applicants with data or information contained in any state agency's database or a database administered by the federal government, or any voter registration database of another state, in order to verify the information submitted by applicants, except that the Secretary shall, notwithstanding the provisions of section 9-20a, cross reference such input information with the list compiled by the Jury Administrator pursuant to subsection (c) of section 51-222a, and made available to the Secretary pursuant to section 505 of this act, in order to attempt to verify such submitted information. The Secretary shall not use the information obtained from any such database except to verify information submitted by the applicant, provided the applicant's signature, if part of data contained in the state agency's database, shall be included as part of the applicant's information contained in the system for online voter registration.

Sec. 502. Subsection (b) of section 9-19h of the 2022 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(b) (1) In addition to the requirements of subsection (a) of this section, and except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall include an application for the admission of an elector with each application form provided for a motor vehicle operator's license and a motor vehicle operator's license renewal, which are issued under subpart (B) of part III of chapter 246, and with each application form provided for an identity card issued under section 1-1h. Such application form for the admission of an elector (A) shall be subject to the approval of the Secretary of the State, (B) shall not include any provisions for the witnessing of the application, and (C) shall contain a statement that (i) specifies each eligibility requirement, (ii) contains an attestation that the applicant meets each such requirement, and (iii) requires the signature of the applicant under penalty of perjury. The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall accept any such completed

application for admission which is submitted in person, by mail or through an electronic system pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection. Except as provided in said subdivision, the applicant shall state on such form, under penalty of perjury, the applicant's name, bona fide residence address, date of birth, whether the applicant is a United States citizen, party enrollment, if any, prior voting address, if registered previously, and that the applicant's privileges as an elector are not forfeited by reason of conviction of a felony. No Social Security number on any such application form for the admission of an elector filed prior to January 1, 2000, may be disclosed to the public or to any governmental agency. The commissioner shall indicate on each such form the date of receipt of such application to ensure that any eligible applicant is registered to vote in an election if it is received by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles by the last day for registration to vote in an election. The commissioner shall provide the applicant with an application receipt, on a form approved by the Secretary of the State and on which the commissioner shall record the date that the commissioner received the application, using an official date stamp bearing the words "Department of Motor Vehicles". The commissioner shall provide such receipt whether the application was submitted in person, by mail or through an electronic system pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection. The commissioner shall forthwith transmit the application to the registrars of voters of the applicant's town of residence, provided the commissioner has, notwithstanding the provisions of section 9-20a, attempted to verify the applicant's United States citizenship information using the list compiled by the Jury Administrator pursuant to subsection (c) of section 51-222a, and made available to the commissioner pursuant to section 505 of this act. If a registration application is accepted within five days before the last day for registration to vote in a regular election, the application shall be transmitted to the registrars of voters of the town of voting residence of the applicant not later than five days after the date of acceptance. The procedures in subsections (c), (d), (f) and (g) of section 9-23g which are not inconsistent with the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, P.L. 103-31, as amended from time to time, shall apply to applications made

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- under this section. The commissioner is not an admitting official and may not restore, under the provisions of section 9-46a, electoral privileges of persons convicted of a felony.
- (2) (A) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall provide an electronic system, subject to the approval of the Secretary of the State, to effectuate the purposes of subdivision (1) of this subsection regarding application for admission of an elector, except that the condition that an applicant state and attest to meeting each eligibility requirement may be waived for any such eligibility requirement verified independently by said commissioner through a federally approved identity verification program or other evidence acceptable to said commissioner. Such electronic system may provide for the transmittal to the Secretary of an applicant's signature on file with said commissioner. The use of any such electronic system shall comply with the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, P.L. 103-31, as amended from time to time.
- (B) (i) Unless otherwise provided in this subparagraph, if the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles determines that a person applying for a motor vehicle operator's license, a motor vehicle operator's license renewal or an identity card meets each eligibility requirement for admission as an elector, including attempting to verify such person's United States citizenship information using the list compiled by the Jury Administrator pursuant to subsection (c) of section 51-222a, said commissioner shall forthwith transmit an application for such person's admission as an elector to the registrars of voters of the town of residence of such person through an electronic system pursuant to this subdivision, in accordance with the provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection, except that no such application shall be transmitted if such person declines to apply for such admission.
 - (ii) If said commissioner determines that a person applying for a motor vehicle operator's license, a motor vehicle operator's license renewal or an identity card is not a United States citizen, said commissioner shall not provide such person an opportunity to apply for admission as an elector through an electronic system pursuant to this

- subdivision and shall not transmit any application for such admission on behalf of such person.
- (iii) If said commissioner cannot determine whether a person applying for a motor vehicle operator's license, a motor vehicle operator's license renewal or an identity card is a United States citizen, such person shall attest to his or her United States citizenship as a precondition of said commissioner processing such person's application for admission as an elector through an electronic system pursuant to this subdivision.
- Sec. 503. Subsection (b) of section 9-23n of the 2022 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):
 - (b) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, each voter registration agency shall (A) distribute mail voter registration application forms, (B) assist applicants for assistance or services provided by the agency in completing voter registration application forms, except for applicants who refuse assistance in completing such forms, (C) accept completed voter registration application forms and provide each applicant with an application receipt, on which the agency shall record the date that the agency received the application, using an official date stamp bearing the name of the agency, and (D) immediately transmit all such applications to the registrars of voters of the town of voting residence of the applicants, provided the voter registration agency has, notwithstanding the provisions of section 9-20a, attempted to verify the applicant's United States citizenship information using the list compiled by the Jury Administrator pursuant to subsection (c) of section 51-222a, and made available to such agency pursuant to section 505 of this act. The agency shall provide such receipt whether the application was submitted in person, by mail or through an electronic system pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection. If a registration application is accepted within five days before the last day for registration to vote in a regular election, the application shall be transmitted to the registrars of voters of the town of voting residence of

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the applicant not later than five days after the date of acceptance. Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, the voter registration agency shall indicate on the completed mail voter registration application form, without indicating the identity of the voter registration agency, the date of its acceptance by such agency, to ensure that any eligible applicant is registered to vote in an election if it is received by the registration agency by the last day for registration to vote in an election. If a state-funded program primarily engaged in providing services to persons with disabilities provides services to a person with a disability at the person's home, the agency shall provide such voter registration services at the person's home. The procedures in subsections (c), (d), (f) and (g) of section 9-23g that are not inconsistent with the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, P.L. 103-31, as amended from time to time, shall apply to applications made under this section. Officials and employees of such voter registration agencies are not admitting officials, as defined in section 9-17a, and may not restore, under the provisions of section 9-46a, electoral privileges of persons convicted of a felony.

(2) (A) Each voter registration agency shall provide an electronic system, subject to the approval of the Secretary of the State, to effectuate the purposes of subdivision (1) of this subsection regarding application for admission of an elector, except that the condition that an applicant state and attest to meeting each eligibility requirement may be waived for any such eligibility requirement verified independently by the agency through a federally approved identity verification program or other evidence acceptable to the agency. Such electronic system may provide for the transmittal to the Secretary of an applicant's signature on file with the voter registration agency. The use of any such electronic system shall comply with the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, P.L. 103-31, as amended from time to time.

(B) (i) Unless otherwise provided in this subparagraph, if the voter registration agency determines that a person applying for assistance or services provided by the agency meets each eligibility requirement for admission as an elector, <u>including attempting to verify such person's</u>

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- United States citizenship information using the list compiled by the Jury Administrator pursuant to subsection (c) of section 51-222a, the agency shall forthwith transmit an application for such person's admission as an elector to the registrars of voters of the town of residence of such person through an electronic system pursuant to this subdivision, in accordance with the provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection, except that no such application shall be transmitted if such person declines to apply for such admission.
 - (ii) If the voter registration agency determines that a person applying for assistance or services provided by the agency is not a United States citizen, the agency shall not provide such person an opportunity to apply for admission as an elector through an electronic system pursuant to this subdivision and shall not transmit any application for such admission on behalf of such person.
 - (iii) If the voter registration agency cannot determine whether a person applying for assistance or services provided by the agency is a United States citizen, such person shall attest to his or her United States citizenship as a precondition of the agency processing such person's application for admission as an elector through an electronic system pursuant to this subdivision.
 - Sec. 504. Subsection (a) of section 9-20 of the 2022 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):
 - (a) Each person who applies for admission as an elector in person to an admitting official shall, upon a form prescribed by the Secretary of the State and signed by the applicant, state under penalties of perjury, his name, bona fide residence by street and number, date of birth, whether he is a United States citizen, whether his privileges as an elector are forfeited by reason of conviction of crime, and whether he has previously been admitted as an elector in any town in this or any other state. Each such applicant shall present his birth certificate, drivers' license or Social Security card to the admitting official for inspection at

216 time of application, and such admitting official shall, 217 notwithstanding the provisions of section 9-20a, attempt to verify such 218 applicant's United States citizenship information using the list compiled 219 by the Jury Administrator pursuant to subsection (c) of section 51-222a, 220 and made available to such admitting official pursuant to section 505 of 221 this act. Notwithstanding the provisions of any special act or charter to 222 the contrary, the application form shall also, in a manner prescribed by 223 the Secretary of the State, provide for application for enrollment in any 224 political party, including, on any such form printed on or after January 225 1, 2006, a list of the names of the major parties, as defined in section 9-226 372, as options for the applicant. The form shall indicate that such 227 enrollment is not mandatory.

Sec. 505. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Not later than thirty days after the Jury Administrator compiles the list of all qualified jurors in the state pursuant to subsection (c) of section 51-222a of the general statutes, the Jury Administrator shall make such list available to the Secretary of the State, the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, each voter registration agency, as defined in section 9-23n of the general statutes, as amended by this act, and the admitting officials, as defined in section 9-17a of the general statutes, of each town for the purposes of United States citizenship verification during the elector admission process."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Sec. 501	from passage	9-19k(a) and (b)
Sec. 502	from passage	9-19h(b)
Sec. 503	from passage	9-23n(b)
Sec. 504	from passage	9-20(a)
Sec. 505	from passage	New section

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